

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-33 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 9, 17, and 24 having been amended and Claims 31-33 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroyanagi (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,767) in view of page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 1, of the present application. For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the art rejections.

The basic requirements for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness as set forth in MPEP 2143 include (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings, (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) the reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. The Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be established in the present case because the references, either taken singularly or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a method of managing a print job comprising, among other steps, the steps of prompting a user to enter identification information at a computer separate from the printer, and editing the print job information at the printer using the computer. Claim 9 recites a system for managing a print job comprising, among other features, means for prompting a user to enter identification information at a

computer separate from the printer, and means for editing the print job information at the printer using the computer. And Claim 17 recites a computer program product comprising, among other features, a third computer code device configured to prompt a user to enter identification information at the computer, and a fifth computer code device configured to edit the print job information at the printer using the computer.

The Kuroyanagi reference describes a print server for transmitting a printing job sent from a client connected to a network to an image output apparatus. A print-server control section (102) receives a printing job (103a) output from a personal computer (300) through a network interface (101), and stores it in a printing-job storage section (103). To maintain server security, the print-server control section (102) checks whether a password for the server specified in advance is included in the printing job (103a). Only when the password for the server is included, the printing job (103a) is stored in the printing-job storage section (103). Then, the print-server control section (102) sequentially outputs data to the image input and output apparatus (200) and other units according to printing destination data and output priority data included in the printing job (103a).

The Official Action indicates that “part of the print job information (printing count 604) is uploaded to the print server computer (inherently editing the information previously stored there, either by adding new information or replacing older information, so that the edited information is then transmitted to the printer rather than the version of the information that existed prior to the editing).” (Page 2, lines 16-22, of the Official Action.) The printing count referred to in the Official Action as “editing” the information in the printer server (100) is provided by the image input and output apparatus (200). The printing count is managed in

the image input and output apparatus (200) and collectively managed in the print server (100) (column 8, lines 19-23) by uploading the printing count to the print server (100) (column 6, lines 28-30). Thus, the Applicant submits that the Kuroyanagi reference does not disclose editing the print job information at the printer *using the computer that is separate from the printer and that prompts a user to enter identification information*. The Kuroyanagi reference describes a system in which the printing count is updated in the image input and output apparatus (200) and uploaded to the print server (100). The print server (100) is configured to broadcast a count request command at a predetermined time or intervals. (Column 8, lines 24-27.) The printing count is not edited by any of the personal computers (300, 301, 302) connected to the network (400).

Thus, the Applicant submits that the Kuroyanagi reference does not disclose or even suggest a method of managing a print job comprising, among other steps, the steps of prompting a user to enter identification information at a computer separate from the printer, and editing the print job information at the printer using the computer, as recited in Claim 1 of the present application. Nor does the Kuroyanagi reference disclose a system for managing a print job comprising, among other features, means for prompting a user to enter identification information at a computer separate from the printer, and means for editing the print job information at the printer using the computer, as recited in Claim 9. Nor does the Kuroyanagi reference disclose a computer program product comprising, among other features, a third computer code device configured to prompt a user to enter identification information at the computer, and a fifth computer code device configured to edit the print job information at the printer using the computer, as recited in Claim 17. The Kuroyanagi

Application Serial No.: 09/575,984
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2005

reference does not describe or suggest allowing the print job to be edited in any manner using the computer used to prompt the user for identification information, nor does page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 1 of the present application supplement this deficiency.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejections of Claims 1, 9, and 17.

Claims 2, 3, and 27 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 1.

Claims 10, 11, and 28 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 9 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 9.

Claims 18 and 29 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 17 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 17.

Claim 24 advantageously recites a graphical user interface for managing a print job originated from a computer comprising a display of printing attributes transmitted to a printer separate from the computer, an input to edit the printing attributes using the computer, and a first push button configured to be selected so as to transmit printing attributes edited with the input to the printer and to a storage device separate from the printer, where the graphical user

Application Serial No.: 09/575,984
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2005

interface is the computer. The Kuroyanagi reference does not disclose or suggest a graphical user interface for managing a print job originated from a computer comprising an input to edit the printing attributes using the computer, and a first push button configured to be selected so as to transmit printing attributes edited with the input to a printer separate from the computer and to a storage device separate from the printer. In the Kuroyanagi reference, the print job originates from one of the personal computers (300, 301, 302) (see column 3, lines 26-28), but these computers (300, 301, 302) are not configured to edit the printing attributes. In fact, the Kuroyanagi reference does not discuss editing of printing attributes, or an input configured to provide such a feature. Furthermore, page 2, line 29, through page 3, line 1 of the present application does not supplement the deficiencies noted above with regard to the Kuroyanagi reference.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of Claim 24.

Claims 25, 26, and 30 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 24 from which they depend. These claims are further considered allowable as they recite other features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied references when those features are considered within the context of Claim 24.

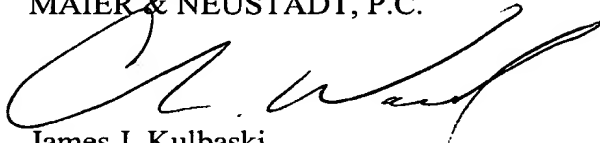
Newly added Claims 31-33 are considered allowable as they recite features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record. These claims are further considered allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to the independent claims from which they depend. Support for new Claims 31-33 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 10-17.

Application Serial No.: 09/575,984
Reply to Office Action dated January 6, 2005

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



James J. Kulbaski
Registration No. 34,648
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax. (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 10/01)

JJK:CDW:brf
I:\atty\cdw\5244\5244 0127\am3.doc